

Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

Marriages

In 2001, 20,457 marriages occurred in Kansas, an increase of 0.2 percent from the 2000 total of 20,426 marriages. ([Table 55](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,912) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 19.1 marriages per 1,000 population. Greeley county had the fewest marriages (8) while Gove and Sheridan had the lowest marriage rate (3.7). ([Table 55](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2001 was 7.6 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 12.6 percent lower than the 1991 rate of 8.7. The 2001 rate was 9.5 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.4 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (12.9 percent) than any other month in 2001, with September and July being the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 41](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the third consecutive year. In 2001, 52.0 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 57](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1991, 12.6 percent of the brides and 5.0 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2001, 9.9 percent of the brides and 3.9 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 58](#))

The average age of all brides in 2001 was 29.7 years and that of grooms was 31.9 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 24.5 years while first time grooms averaged 26.6 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2001, women were, on the average, 38.9 years old and men were 41.9 years of age. ([Figure 42](#))

Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

Marriage Dissolutions

In 2001, 9,885 marriage dissolutions (9,587 divorces and 298 annulments) occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 2.2 percent from the 2000 total of 10,105. ([Table 56](#), [Table 60](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (3,004) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (12.7) per 1,000 population. Greeley county had no marriage dissolutions in 2001. Chase county had 1 and also had the lowest dissolution rate of 0.3 per 1,000 population. ([Table 56](#), [Figure 38](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2001 was 3.7 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 27.5 percent lower than the 1991 rate of 5.1. The 2001 rate (3.7) is identical to the 1999 rate which was the lowest since 1970. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 40](#))

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 2001 (3.7) was 7.5 percent lower than the U.S. rate (4.0). ([Figure 40](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with both Kansas and the U.S. at 2.1:1. ([Table 55](#), [Table 56](#))

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 2001 was 30-34, while for husbands it was the 35-39 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. ([Table 59](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2001 was 35.7 years for wives and 38.2 years for husbands, as compared to 33.5 years for wives and 35.9 years for husbands in 1991. ([Figure 43](#))

In 2001, 42.1 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 60](#))

There were 9,363 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2001. At least one minor child was reported in over half (52.5 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 61](#), [Figure 44](#))